

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 037860 TOSEC 040016

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 037860 TOSEC 040016

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINSHASA 1368, SENT SECSTATE, INFO ABIDJAN,  
BONN, BRUSSELS, COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, THE HAGUE, LONDON,  
LUXEMBOURG, PARIS, DAKAR, LUSAKA17 FEB 76:

QUOTE S E C R E T KINSHASA 1368

EXDIS

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: FRENCH TRY TO STAMPEDE THE EEC INTO  
RECOGNIZING THE MPLA

1. SUMMARY: AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 16, MOBUTU SAID THAT  
FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAD LEARNED IN THE HAGUE THAT  
GISCARD HAD TRIED TO "STAMPEDE" THE EEC INTO RECOGNIZING  
THE MPLA. WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE, MOBUTU IMPLIED THAT  
THE FRENCH HAD LIKEWISE USED THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THE  
IVORY COAST AND GABON TO BRING THESE COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE  
NETO'S GOVERNMENT. REASON? ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, SAYS MOBUTU.  
THE MPLA HAVE PROMISED THE FRENCH THAT THEY CAN TAKE OVER  
GULF'S CABINDA CONCESSION AND THAT THEY CAN HAVE EXPLOITATION

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RIGHTS TO OFFSHORE RESERVES NEAR THE PETRO-FINA FIELD OFF

SAN ANTONIO IN NORTHERN ANGOLA. NGUZA PURPORTEDLY TALKED THE DUTCH OUT OF RECOGNIZING BEFORE THE EEC MEETING IN LUSAKA ON FEBRUARY 16. END SUMMARY.

2. MOBUT TOLD ME THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, WHO HAS VISITED THE HAGUE, TO EFFECT THAT THE FRENCH HAD ASKED THE DUTCH TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA, AND THIS BEFORE THE EEC MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 16. ACCORDING TO NGUZA, THE FRENCH WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY AND THEN PRESSED FOR EEC RECOGNITION AT THE BRUSSELS MEETING. WHEN NGUZA MET WITH THE DUTCH, HE WAS INFORMED OF THIS PLAN AND INDEED SHOWN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH THE GON HAD ALREADY AGREED TO. NGUZA IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ARGUED THAT SUCH RECOGNITION WOULD (A) LEGITIMIZE NOT ONLY THE MPLA GOVERNMENT BUT THE SOVIET/CUBAN INTERVENTION AS WELL AND (B) THAT IN ANY EVENT THE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT REFLECT THE FACT THAT ZAIRE WAS THREATENED BY SUCH INTERVENTION. MOBUTU SWEARS THAT NGUZA WAS PERSUASIVE AND THAT THE DUTCH CANCELED THEIR PLANS TO ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA BEFORE THE BRUSSELS MEETING.

3. WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT HIS FRENCH FRIENDS WOULD WANT TO PUSH THE EEC INTO RECOGNIZING NETO'S GOVERNMENT, MOBUTU SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN SHOCKED TOO, THOUGH NOW HE WAS BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY GABON AND THE IVORY COAST HAD JUMPED ON THE MPLA BANGWAGON. MOBUTU RECALLED THAT BONGO HAD ANNOUNCED HIS RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA JUST AFTER HE HAD LUNCHEDED WITH GISCARD, AND HE WONDERED IF THE FRENCH HAD NOT LIKEWISE INFLUENCED HOUPHOUET. WHEN I ASKED WHAT INTEREST THE FRENCH COULD HAVE IN PUSHING FOR MPLA RECOGNITION, MOBUTU SAID THAT HE HAD INTELLIGENCE SHOWING THAT NETO HAD OFFERED THE FRENCH THE RIGHTS TO GULF'S CABINDA CONCESSION AND EXPLOITATION RIGHTS TO AN OFFSHORE FIELD NEXT TO PETRO-FINA'S CONCESSION NEAR SAN ANTONIO, IN NORTHERN ANGOLA. WALKER UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

SECRET

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